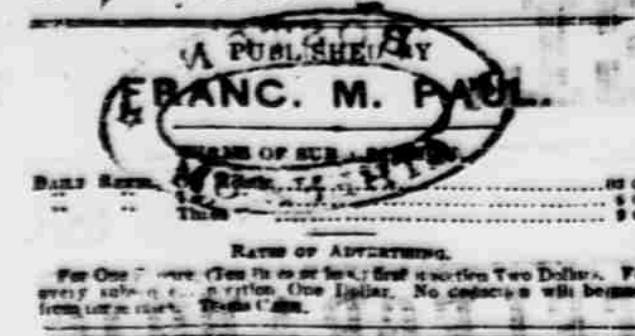


FRIDAY MORNING, MAR 18, 1864



The whole number of national banks now authorized is 269, with a capital of \$99,145,000.

The leading Broadway hotels in New York have advanced the price of board to \$1.50 per day.

There are said to be 162 cases of smallpox in the pest house at Norfolk, Va.

The State Conventions of Connecticut, Iowa, and Indiana, have nominated Lincoln for re-election.

Wheeler's Tactics have been adopted for the cavalry service of the Army of Tennessee.

M. Mercier, the French Minister at Washington, now at Paris, has asked to be transferred to some other post.

Origin of the name of Thomas H. is the Democratic candidate for the office of Governor of Connecticut.

The Maryland Legislature has voted to buy in conjunction with New York, the battle-field of Antietam.

Governor Goodwin, of Arizona, organized a Government for that Territory on the 20th of November.

Lieut. Gen. A. P. Hill is quite sick, and incapacitated for command. His corps is now commanded by Major General Anderson.

Mr. Homes Ware, of Columbia, Ala., is ready to contribute an hundred pounds of cotton to the Union.

Two Yankee regiments at Powderhorn, Tex., who time expired January 27th, refused to re-enlist and were sent home.

The draft in New York and Missouri was to commence on the 10th instant. In the filing the quota by volunteer had been given up as a hopeless job.

The Mazon Cotton Manufacturing Company have sent generally and patriotically part of their 87,000 pounds of cotton to the Army of Tennessee, at one dollar per pound, being one dollar and a half less than the present market price.

Col. Wm. W. Allen, of the 1st Ala. Cavalry, has been made a Brigadier General. This promotion was well merited. Col. Allen is a man brave and deserving officer, and was well known as a gallant and able charge at Marietta.

The new iron-clad Tuscomb, a late, recently met with a disaster. She has broken her back, and is now "hugged" by her own weight, so that she cannot move. She is now in the water, and the loss is estimated at \$250,000.

The movements against Lincoln, for the next President of the United States, is rapidly gaining strength. In "Virginia," a "Union" of his own creation, the "Whigs" have turned up in their protest and strong line.

Phillip Chatham, the special detective of General Winfield, committed to "Castle Thunder" upon the charge of communicating treasonable information to the enemy, and which charge was subsequently mitigated by an insight into the contents of the documents, to a simple charge of indiscretion, has been released from confinement.

The statement made by a correspondent of the Texas Telegraph, that all the Germans in Indiana are taking the Yankee cause is contradicted by another, who says all of them are in the service except thirteen, who remain in the town of the eleven over age, and the other two have certificates of inability.

A young man in Monroe county, Mississippi, whose father had been killed and his house and all its contents burned by the Yankees, recently went to the house where a wounded Yankee had been left and was a fair way of recovery and about him through the head. One of the modern conductors upon whom prisoners in Yankee hospitals is retaliated.

The New York Tribune says the sham Democracy of Indiana are, if possible, more violently delaying this year than ever. They have just told their Congressional Convention for the appointment of Delegates to the National Convention, and the platform put forth embody sentiments and entirely suitable to secession.

The Hartford Times says a \$1,000 sword for Gen. Grant has just been finished by the Ames Company at Chicopee. Among the ornamental features about the handle is a ring of diamonds cost \$400. On the sword is engraved a record of twenty-seven battles, and slugs in which the modern Ulysses has been engaged.

We are pleased to announce says the Mobile Tribune, that the Mobile and Ohio Railroad is now open to Quitman. We hope to have in a short while to have the pleasure of announcing the opening of the road through to Oklawaha. The Chief Engineer, Maj. Fleming, has his working parties at work on the road, and at work pushing affairs ahead with great vigor.

The commandant of the Libby prison, says the Richmond Enquirer, has made very satisfactory arrangements to secure the Yankees from now on his charge. In case of a successful landing, the prisoners will be taken to the Libby prison, and the nature of the arrangements need not be mentioned. Yesterday at the Libby and its dependence on the Libby, etc., etc., there were 8,058 prisoners of war and 1,025 officers. On Saturday night, 27 officers were received, bringing three officers. During that day two were sent to the small pest hospital, 900 to America, Georgia, and 18 died.

The Savannah News says a number of the 1st Florida Cavalry, who left the front a few days back, reported all quiet in the vicinity of Jacksonville. The pickets are within the miles of that place, and report that for some days past the Yankees' camp has not been heard. The impression exists that the Yankees have withdrawn a considerable number of their forces from Jacksonville. The news is, of course, the indication of any movement, the coming up of troops. A number of dead and wounded troops arrived by the Gulf train last night. One who came from Tallahassee reports that our wounded are rapidly recovering. Some of the enemy's wounded have had their limbs amputated, and the greater portion who have been operated upon have died.

The decision of the Court of Appeals of the State of Virginia, as a check upon the constitutional status of the report of Congress, and the substitution of the military service, is a very important act of grace and favor to the citizens, and a contract in any respect to which the Government is a party. Not would the Government have had a right to make such a contract as in this case is controlled for. As an act of grace it was, of course, repulsive at the will of Congress. Even if Congress had had the power to make such a contract, it had exercised it yet the addition of a contract as a thing would have rendered the contract repulsive. It is the judgment of Congress, the expression of the country, and it is a party. Not would the Government have had a right to make such a contract as in this case is controlled for. As an act of grace it was, of course, repulsive at the will of Congress. Even if Congress had had the power to make such a contract, it had exercised it yet the addition of a contract as a thing would have rendered the contract repulsive. It is the judgment of Congress, the expression of the country, and it is a party.

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THE famous papers are very decidedly of the opinion that the Yankees are longing to the Dahlgren raid, captured by our forces, and now in prison at Richmond, should not be regarded as prisoners of war, but should be rigorously and summarily dealt with. Their arguments are not without force and pertinence. They insist that the orders found upon the body of the leader of the expedition, establish the fact, that the destruction and sack of the city, and slaughter of the officers of the government, were the primary objects in view, and that as these purposes are altogether foreign to the rules of civilized warfare, and violative of the practice of civilized nations, those engaged in the enterprise, having failed, have no right to expect the treatment of prisoners of war, and have fairly forfeited their lives. It is therefore argued, that no mercy should be shown, but that those who have been captured shall be summarily executed.

It is intimated that explanations have been demanded of the Lincoln government, as to whether the programme marked out in the memoranda found upon Dahlgren, was authorized by the government, and if the policy therein indicated, is hereafter to be pursued. If the Yankee government answers affirmatively, of course there will be no alternative for us but wholesale retaliation. As regards the prisoners engaged in the late raid upon Richmond, if the government repudiates the orders found upon Dahlgren, it follows that the design of the raiders was to commit the horrible offenses laid down in the memoranda upon their own responsibility, in which case they cannot be regarded as soldiers executing the orders of their government, but as robbers intending to perpetrate the most shocking atrocities, and in reformation deserving death. If the Lincoln government assumes the responsibility of the expedition, and acknowledges that it authorized the troops to murder the President and his Cabinet, and burn and sack the city of Richmond, the reply will be an unmistakable notification to us that the war hereafter is not to be waged according to the rules of civilized warfare, but upon principles, and in a manner, recognized and acted upon alone by savages.

In either case, it would seem that the fate of the prisoners would inevitably be sealed, and that our government would have no alternative but to proceed to their execution. But would we be justified in the eyes of the world, and in our own consciences, in such wholesale slaughter? The idea of executing between three and four hundred men, incapable of resistance, is shocking to every feeling of humanity. It would be without a parallel in modern times, and the whole world would ring with the horrible story. But suppose on the other hand, that these men had succeeded in their purpose, can the mind conceive any thing more terrible, than the scenes which would have been enacted in Richmond. The city would have been fired in a thousand places, women and children would have been startled from their quiet dreams, to find their dwellings wrapped in flames. Old and feeble innocence, the hapless and aged, would have perished in the awful conflagration from which there would have been no escape, for they could not have received assistance in the frightful panic which would have seized upon the healthy and robust in such a fearful time. The floors of the government, and no doubt thousands of others would have been mercilessly slaughtered, and the rest of the brutal soldiery would have satisfied itself upon the innocence and beauty of the city. The imagination recoils dismayed at the contemplation of the barbarities which would have been enacted, and yet the sympathies of the world are to be evoked for the helpless wretches who were to be the actors in this high carnival of crime.

Better than submit to such devil's work as this, would it be to raise the black banner of extermination at once, and ask not for quarter, or grant it. O! the civilized world witnesses that the issue was forced upon us, and reluctantly accepted; appeal to the God of battles for the justice of our cause, and the purity of our intentions, and either conquer or die upon the field. Let the flag be taught that the cruel and unquenching warfare which has been forced upon us, has driven us to desperation, and that the wages of battle is accepted upon their own bloody and remorseless terms.

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